Objective:
• The US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) states that all hazardous drugs that a worker may encounter in a facility must be identified. Compliance requires practice-specific assessments for drugs used at a facility.
• In addition, WorkSafe BC regulations require that a list of all cytotoxic (hazardous) drugs be posted and present in the workplace.
• To meet these requirements, the BC Cancer Agency has developed and maintains a hazardous drug list for agents regularly used for cancer treatment.

Background:
• The NIOSH hazardous drug list and evaluation criteria are the foundation to identify and create a list of hazardous formulary drugs.
• However, further guiding principles were needed to adopt the NIOSH list at our organization.
• The development of an institutional list of hazardous drugs at the BC Cancer Agency, British Columbia, Canada has evolved since 2005.

Design and Methods: First, we developed separate directives to:
a) determine the inherent hazardous toxicity of a drug using the NIOSH criteria
b) establish the requirements for safe handling (e.g., exposure risks) based on the dosage forms of these drugs.

Secondly, we created a systematic approach to determine the scope of the drugs reviewed by NIOSH.

Thirdly, we streamlined our review process by defining those drugs which still needed to be evaluated by our organization.

Finally, we considered the pros and cons of creating a tiered system for classifying hazardous drugs beyond those recommended by NIOSH.

Conclusion:
• BCCA assigns risk level based on the inherent toxicity of the drug and determine our safe handling practice based on the likelihood of occupational exposure from specific dosage forms.
• Although our handling of intact, non-sterile forms of hazardous drugs is largely similar to that with non-hazardous drugs, our approach ensures the clear identification of drugs with inherent toxicity so any manipulation of their intact, non-sterile forms would readily lead to more stringent safe handling.

The current BCCA HD List consists of the 2012 NIOSH HD List and the regularly updated BCCA HD List Addendum.